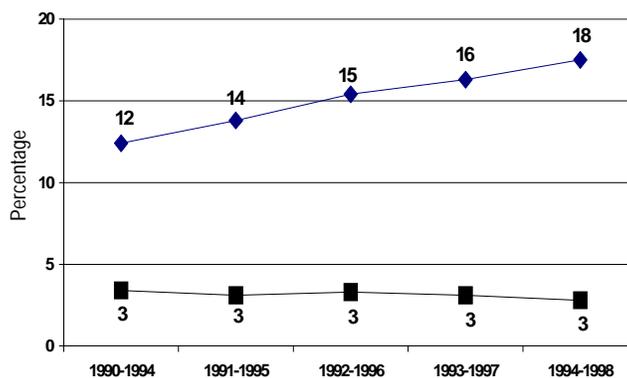


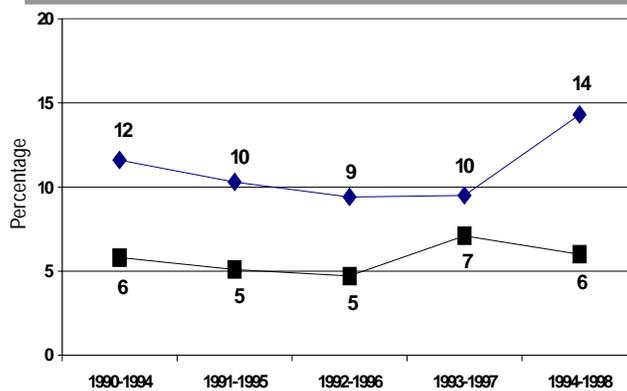
# Focus on Chronic Disease

The Community HealthWatch report cards are developed by the Kent County Health Department to present health information that is being monitored by Healthy Kent 2010, a community health committee dedicated to improving our county's health. This report card focuses on chronic disease. Because most chronic disease results from lifestyle behaviors -- cigarette smoking, lack of exercise, poor eating habits, among others -- the Healthy Kent Chronic Disease Implementation Team has focused their efforts on prevention and early detection programs. Communities of color and people of lower socioeconomic status are disproportionately affected by chronic disease, and are a priority for prevention, screening and early detection efforts.

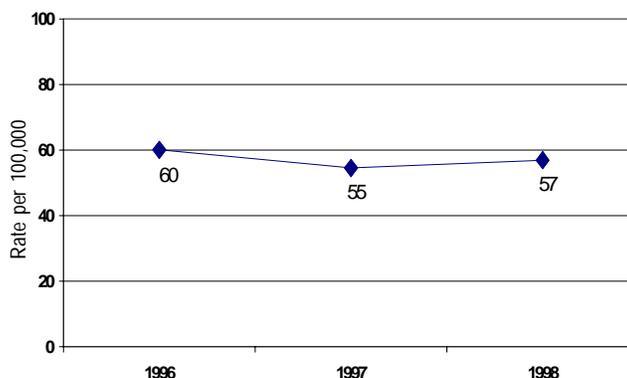
**Breast Cancer Stage at Diagnosis, White**



**Breast Cancer Stage at Diagnosis, Black**



**Diabetes: Preventable Hospitalizations**



Early Diagnosis    Late Diagnosis

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The **stage of breast cancer at diagnosis** is a critical factor in the treatment and survivability of this disease. Women with breast cancer who are diagnosed at an early stage of the disease have a wider choice of treatment options, and a better chance of both short- and long-term survival. Regular mammograms can detect breast cancer in its earliest stages. During much of the past 10 years, white women in Kent County were more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer at an earlier stage of the disease than black women, suggesting disparities in access to mammography services. Since the mid- 1990's however, programs such as the Women's Health Network -- a Health Department coalition of local providers who utilize mobile mammography to increase access to this service -- and the Sisters Empowering Sisters outreach program, are having significant success in narrowing the gap.

Although there have been large increases in the number of people who have or who are at risk for Type II diabetes, the rate of **preventable hospitalizations for diabetes** has decreased slightly in Kent County for the last three years. Greater public awareness of this disease and a growing emphasis on active diabetes management have likely contributed to this positive trend.